

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An electronic mail system comprising:

a mail server which transmits and receives an electronic mail; and
means for converting an electronic mail address of a destination
terminal into a network address;

wherein the mail server obtains the network address by the means for
converting by using the electronic mail address included in the received
electronic mail, and transmits the electronic mail to the obtained network
address.

2. The electronic mail system according to claim 1, wherein when
the destination terminal is assigned with a network address, the destination
terminal notifies the means for converting with the terminal name of the
destination terminal and the network address, and updates the network
address included in the address conversion data.

3. The electronic mail system according to claim 2, wherein the
destination terminal is an Internet facsimile machine which can carry out
an image communication by the Internet.

4. An electronic mail system comprising:

an address conversion unit which stores address conversion data for
converting an electronic mail address of a destination terminal into a
network address;

an electronic mail reception unit which receives electronic mail;

an inquiry unit which obtains the network address from the address conversion unit by using an electronic mail address of a destination terminal included in the received electronic mail; and

an electronic mail transmission unit which transmits the electronic mail to the obtained network address.

5. The electronic mail system according to claim 4, comprising:
a directory server which includes the address conversion unit; and
an electronic mail server which includes the electronic mail reception unit, the inquiry unit, and the electronic mail transmission unit.

6. The electronic mail system according to claim 4, wherein the mail server includes the address conversion unit, the electronic mail reception unit, the inquiry unit, and the electronic mail transmission unit.

7. The electronic mail system according to claim 4, comprising:
an updating unit which updates the network address included in the address conversion data by notifying the address conversion unit from the destination terminal with the terminal name of the destination terminal and the network address when the destination terminal is assigned with a network address.

8. The electronic mail system according to claim 4, wherein the address conversion data is a structured document.

9. The electronic mail system according to claim 4, further comprising:

mailboxes for each of the destination terminals;

wherein when there is no mailbox for the destination terminal included in the received electronic mail, the inquiry unit inquires the network address from the address conversion unit.

10. The electronic mail system according to claim 4, further comprising:

mailboxes for each of the destination terminals;

wherein when the inquiry unit fails to obtain the network address from the address conversion unit by using the electronic mail address of the destination terminal included in the received electronic mail, the received electronic mail is stored in the mailbox.

11. The electronic mail system according to claim 4, wherein the address conversion unit stores an update time for the address conversion data, and when a prescribed period of time elapses from the update time, the address conversion unit requests a network address from the destination terminal.

12. A program for an electronic mail system comprising:

a command for storing and managing address conversion data for converting an electronic mail address of a destination terminal into a network address; and

a command for obtaining the network address by referring to the

address conversion data by an electronic mail address when receiving an electronic mail of an electronic mail address other than that of the mailbox managed by the mail server.

13. The program for the electronic mail system according to claim 12, further comprising:

a command for the destination terminal to notify a server that manages the address conversion data of a terminal name of the destination terminal and a network address when the destination terminal is assigned with a network address from a server for assigning a network address.